



Freeport Police Department 2018 Annual Report





FREEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Miguel Bermudez
Chief of Police

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THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The entire Village Board has continued to ensure that the public safety remains one of the main priorities and an essential function of village government; I would like to thank Mayor Robert T. Kennedy, Deputy Mayor Jorge A. Martinez, Trustees Carmen J. Pineyro, Ron J. Ellerbe, and Christopher Squeri for their continued support.

In 2018 the members of the Freeport Police Department have continued to strive to meet the ever-changing needs of village residents. Understanding the many challenges faced by our community and developing a response designed to resolve or improve each issue, is the priority focus of Police personnel. Each day Freeport Police Officers are engaged in providing countless law enforcement services that pertain to Quality of Life concerns, assistance to victims of auto accidents and medical emergencies, traffic enforcement, the investigation of crimes and the apprehension of those who violate the law. **This effort resulted in a 1.8% drop in Part 1 Major Crimes since 2017 and over 54.74% since 2013. Looking further back in the past, records show an over 76.26% drop in major crimes since 1985. Crime is currently at an all time historic low.**

Throughout this report you will observe the commitment, dedication and professionalism of the men and women of the Freeport Police Department. These attributes are summarized in outlines, statistics and brief narratives describing the many duties that are performed each day as Police Officers and civilian employees collectively strive to fulfill the public's expectations of community involved policing.

Any questions or comments that you may have regarding the 2018 Annual Report may be forwarded to info@freeportpolice.org or mailed to Freeport Police Department Headquarters at 40 N. Ocean Ave. Freeport, N.Y. 11520

Miguel Bermudez
Chief of Police



TABLE OF ORGANIZATION

Sworn Personnel	2017	2018
Chief of Police	1	1
Assistant Chief	1	1
Deputy Chief	1	1
Detective Lieutenant	1	1
Watch Commanders/Lieutenants	4	4
Detective Sergeant	1	1
Patrol Supervisors/Sergeants	8	8
Community Response Detectives	7	7
Technical Services Unit - 1 Sergeant, 2 Police Officers	3	3
Police Officers	73	73
Total Sworn Officers:	100	100
Civilian Personnel:		
Civilian Dispatchers	4	4
Parking Meter Attendants	6	5
Clerks	6	6
Crime Analyst	1	1
Strategic Operations Center Operator	1	1
School Crossing Guards	17	17
Total Civilian Personnel:	35	35
Total Personnel:	135	135



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Freeport Schools Safety Committee
- Freeport Cares Committee
- AAA Schools Open-Drive Carefully Campaign
- Adopt-A-Cop Program 23rd Year
- Breaking the Cycle Program
- Career Day - All Schools
- Police Headquarters Tours
- Respect Day – Dodd Middle School



COMMUNITY-POLICE PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATION

2018 AAA Community Traffic Safety - Gold Award

2018 AAA Pedestrian Safety Award

2018 Law Enforcement Torch Run

9-11 Neighborhood Memorial

9-11 Ceremony – New Visions School

Annual Trees for Troops

Anti-Bullying Program – Freeport Schools

Champions for Children Council for Unity

Freeport Educational Foundation Annual Gala

Freeport Neighborhood Watch meetings attended

Freeport Peace Parade

Golden Gathering Fair

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace

Interactive Workshops

New Beginnings Childcare Demonstration

Northwest Park Civic Association presentation

Operation Chill

Parents for Megan's Law Community Meeting

Perfecting the Faith Barbeque

National Take Back Initiative – US Drug Enforcement Administration

Traffic Safety Programs

Buckle Up NY – Seatbelt Enforcement Program

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program – STEP

STOP DWI

NYS Operation Safe Stop – School Bus Safety

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Perfecting the Faith Barbeque



New Beginnings Child Care



National Drug Take Back Initiative



POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

Patrol Division

- Desk and Patrol Supervisors
- Patrol Police Officers
- Traffic Enforcement Unit
- Special Enforcement Team
- Dispatchers
- School Crossing Guards



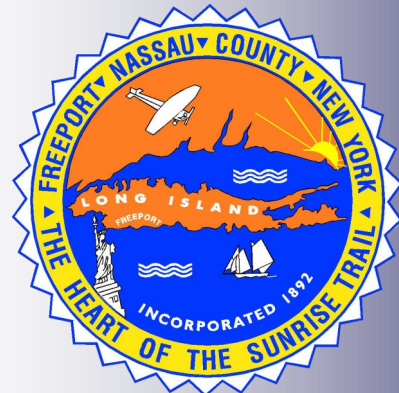
Community Response Unit

- Detectives
- Plain Clothes Police Officers



Support Unit

- Technical Services Unit
- Crime Analyst
- Strategic Operations Center Operators
- Clerical Unit
- Parking Enforcement



PATROL DIVISION

The first responders to any type of request for police assistance are the uniform personnel of the Patrol Division. They are the most visible representatives of the Police Department. The conduct and manner of each individual officer's performance is the best indicator of the Police Department's commitment to fulfilling the spirit and intent of our Mission Statement.



While most of the police work performed by members of the Patrol Division is exciting and frequently stressful, the more mundane issues are also a priority. Ensuring compliance with the myriad of laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, performing equipment and vehicle inspections before each tour, safeguarding evidence or crime scenes, writing clear, concise and complete reports are just a few of the routine but no less important performance requirements expected of each officer.

The amount of equipment in patrol vehicles grows every year. Currently each vehicle is equipped with a laptop computer and printer, a mobile video recording system (MVR), an automated external defibrillator (AED), combination oxygen/first aid kits, digital camera, highway safety and water rescue equipment, a portable breath tester for DWI investigations, and a M4 carbine.





TRAFFIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT UNIT



The Traffic Safety Enforcement (TSE) unit consists of seven (7) officers. These officers perform speed limit compliance enforcement using radar and laser equipped unmarked police vehicles. They also perform enhanced traffic enforcement in select areas throughout the village and at intersections with high accident rates or in response to resident complaints.



Police Officer assigned to the TSE unit utilizing a LIDAR speed measurement unit to address speeding violations.

An unmarked Chevrolet Tahoe assigned to the TSE unit. Unmarked vehicles allow officers to enforce traffic violations.



A Police Officer utilizing a laptop computer to monitor the License Plate Reader System. Vehicles with a suspended registration are stopped and impounded as necessary.

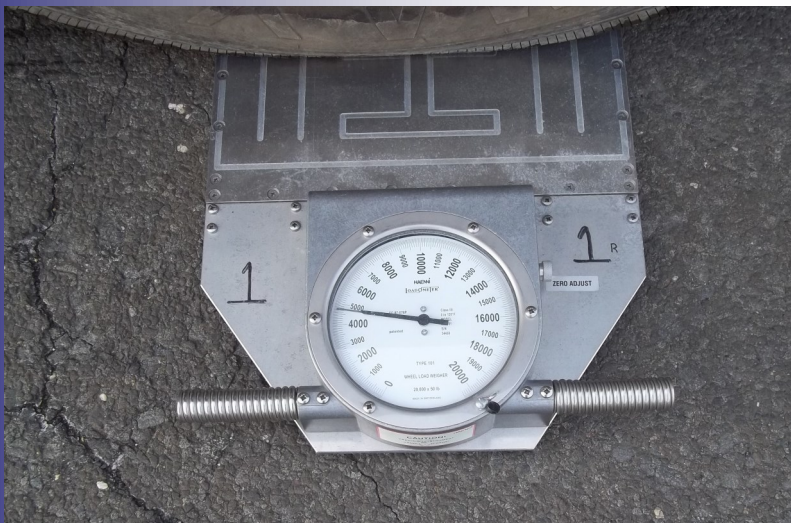
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

Three (3) officers in the Traffic Safety Enforcement Unit have received training in Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. These officers' using specialized equipment have the ability to inspect commercial vehicles for safety and overweight violations. This added enforcement, protects the safety of pedestrians, and other drivers on the roadway in additions to reducing the wear and tear of the local roads due to overweight vehicles. In 2018, these officers issued 125 summonses to the operators of commercial vehicles for overweight and safety violations.



Radio Patrol Vehicle 956. Vehicle is equipped with equipment to weigh commercial vehicles and to determine if they are over weight.

PO Samuel and PO Kessler inspecting a commercial vehicle for violations.



Scales that are placed under each tire of the vehicle that determine the weight.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

In 2018 the department continued the use of body worn cameras with excellent results. Patrol officers and supervisors utilize this valuable tool to record victim's injuries and statements, document defendant's actions at time of arrest, gather evidence at crime scenes, and as a training tool. This results in providing critical information to district attorneys office to assist in the prosecution of cases, and reducing frivolous civilian complaints against police officers.

In 2018, over five hundred cases which contained body camera video were forwarded to the District Attorney's office.

The department is also in the process of upgrading the body camera systems to the Axon Body 2 model. This model is different from the existing systems by that it is a single unit and does not have a remote camera. These systems have improved capabilities such as a 143 degree field of view, and a higher video resolution for improved video quality.



Officer approaching a stopped vehicle for a traffic law violation. Due to the 143 degree field of view, the camera records the entire scene.

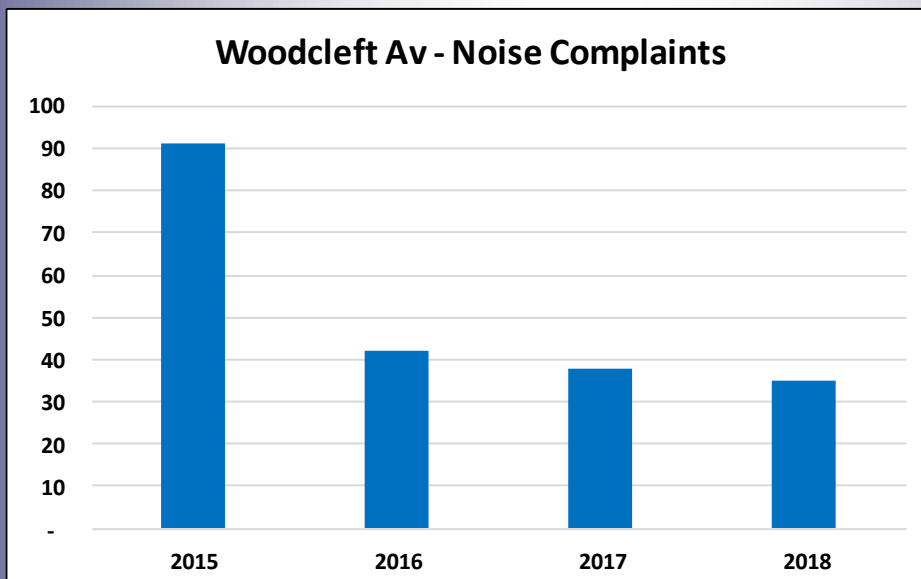


SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM (SET)

In 2018 the Special Enforcement Team, known as SET was expanded to three (3) teams. Each team consists of two Police Officers who were assigned to address targeted quality of life issues. This consisted of focused patrols in locations where there have been an increase in the amount of quality of life complaints.

During the summer months their primary concern was the Woodcleft Ave area to address the increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic and other quality of life issues. Officers enforced all violations with zero tolerance.

Special Enforcement Team Activity				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arrests	18	53	97	172
Traffic Tickets	64	489	682	808
Disorderly Conduct	25	41	34	74
Littering	17	16	28	27
Noise Violations	21	20	43	74
Open Container	104	139	153	206
Trespassing	9	57	29	27
Other Violations	3	29	25	26
Total	261	844	1091	1414

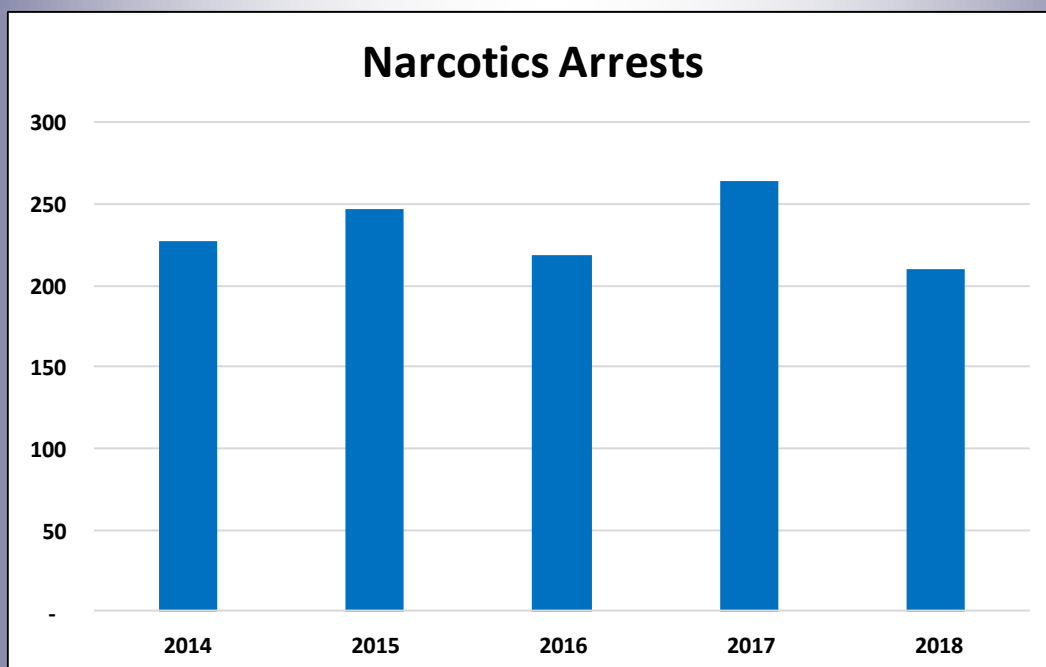


**NOISE
COMPLAINTS
DOWN
56%**

COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT

The purpose of the Community Response Unit (CRU) is to respond to the community's needs in order to provide an improvement in the Quality of Life for all the residents of the Incorporated Village of Freeport. The Freeport Police Department's CRU, is made up of a Commanding Officer (Detective Lieutenant), Detective Sergeant, seven (7) Detectives, and six (6) Police Officers. The Police Officers are assigned to the unit for a period of two years. At the completion of their two-year assignment, the Officers are reassigned to the Patrol Division with a better understanding of how to meet and provide the type of policing that the community requires and deserves.

The primary duties of the Community Response Unit are targeted street crime enforcement, Quality of Life issues, and the follow up of all misdemeanor, violation, and many felony investigations. All reports are reviewed daily, and teams are assigned to investigate and arrest the suspects involved. Secondary duties are to assist the Uniform Patrol Division when needed.



In 2018 the Community Response Unit conducted joint operations with the below agencies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Long Island Heroin Task Force | • New York State Division of Parole |
| • Long Island FBI Gang Task Force | • Nassau County Probation Department |
| • DEA Narcoticz Task Force | • New York State Department of Taxation and Finance |
| • Nassau County Sheriff's Dept. Gang Intelligence Unit | • New York State Liquor Authority |

USE OF FORCE TRAINING UNIT

The Use of Force Training Unit is responsible for the development and presentation of in-service training within the Freeport Police Department. This unit is comprised of four New York State Certified Police Instructors (one Lieutenant, one Detective and two Police Officers) and training is conducted twice a year. All officers must attend and successfully complete this training, which consists of:

- Firearms (pistol and carbine) – The officers are required to demonstrate a proficiency in safe handling, proper use, and maintenance of their weapons and pass numerous qualification and tactical courses in both day and low-light conditions. Officers also receive training on Combat Survival, Tactics and Techniques
- Defensive Tactics – The officers receive training on handcuffing techniques, use of the police baton, weapon retention and personal weapons.
- Level IV ceramic rifle plate training.
- Active shooter training.
- Vehicle stops training.
- Conducted Electrical Weapons - Taser Training
- Chemical Agents – The use of Oleoresin Capsaicin and post treatment care.
- Legal – Update officers on recent court decisions and law changes as well as changes in department policy.
- CPR and First Aid
- Narcan – Opiate and Opioid Overdose Treatment
- Blood Borne Pathogen Training – To prepare and protect the department in exposure to infectious diseases.

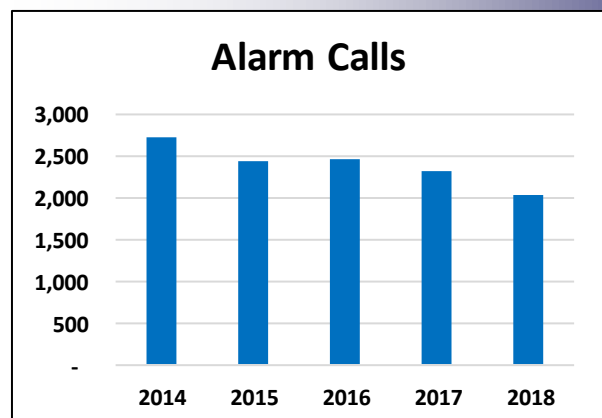
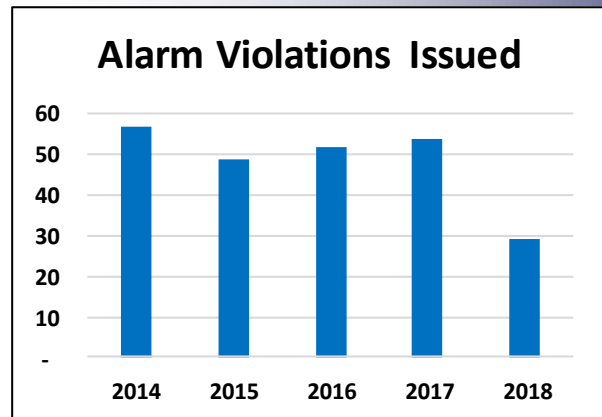


TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT

The Technical Services Unit consists of one Sergeant and two Police Officers. This unit oversees the daily operation of all technical systems of the police department in addition to providing support to the Patrol Division and Community Response Unit as required.

Duties Include:

- Department Records Management System
- Network Servers and Infrastructure
- Mobile Ticket System
- License Plate Reader System
- Body Camera System
- Radio and Recording Systems
- Property Management
- Nuisance Alarm Enforcement Program
- Sex Offender Management
- Budget Preparation and Accounting
- Asset Forfeiture Management and Accounting
- New York State Monthly Crime Statistics
- Grant Application and Management
- Impounded Vehicle Management
- Speed Trailer Deployment



LICENSE PLATE READER (LPR) SYSTEM



In November, 2015 the department completed the installation of a license plate reader system manufactured by Selex ES. This system which was installed at all points of entry to the Village of Freeport has the capability to scan and record all license plates of vehicles on the roadways that are entering the village. Due to this it is commonly referred to as the “Ring of Steel”. The system consists of multiple camera systems positioned at strategic locations in the Village of Freeport. These systems are connected using a secure fiber optic network which transmits the data to a server located in

the Strategic Operations Center.

The system has the capability to scanning over 2,000 plate reads per minute at speeds of up to 100 mph, day or night.

With the use of a database that is provided daily by the State of New York of all suspended, stolen, wanted, and missing persons, officers are notified when a vehicle with an alert assigned to it enters the village. At that time officers are able to take action and stop the vehicle for further investigation.

The data that is captured by the system only consists of the date, time and location of the scan, registration plate of the vehicle and an image of the rear of the vehicle. This data is archived for 180 days, and is then purged from the system automatically .

LPR System Success Stories:

In June 2018, officers were alerted to a License Plate Reader system alert for a vehicle that was stolen from a location in Freeport several days earlier. The vehicle was located and multiple occupants were arrested for Possession of Stolen Property.

In August 2018, after an investigation by Freeport Police Department Detective Division for Leaving the Scene of an Accident a vehicle was identified by the using the License Plate Reader system. A 48 year old resident of Freeport was arrested.

In October 2018, an alert was received by the License Plate Reader system for a vehicle entering the Village of Freeport that was wanted for several armed robberies in Nassau County and New York City. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was arrested and charged with Robbery and Possession of a Weapon.

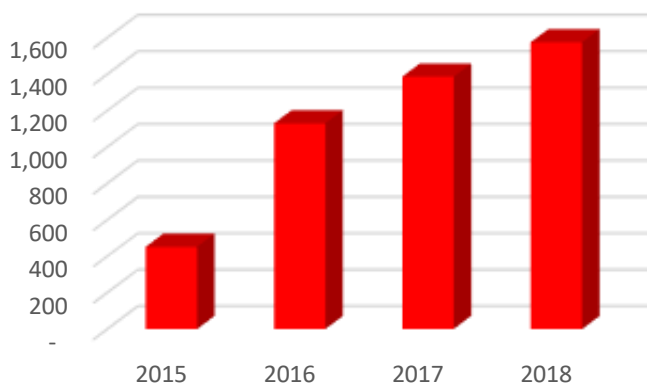
In December 2018, officers were alerted to a License Plate Reader system alert for a stolen vehicle entering the Village of Freeport. The vehicle was located and after a brief pursuit the operator was arrested. During the investigation, officers recovered marijuana and a controlled substance.

Since the inception of the LPR Program, the system has resulted in the impounding of 4,941 vehicles, 218 arrests, the recovery of 128 stolen vehicles, and the issuance of over 22,000 summonses.

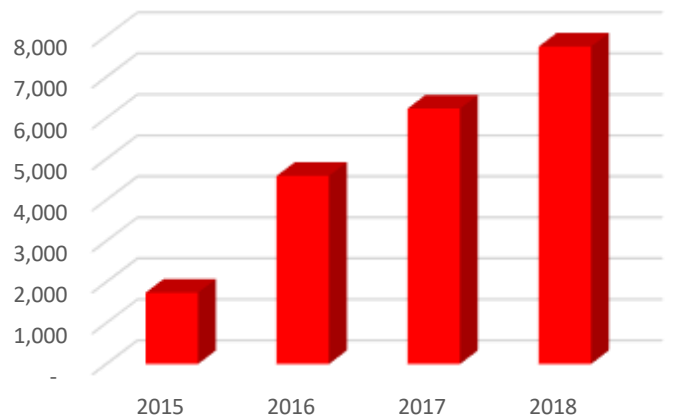
LPR SYSTEM STATISTICS:

Activity:	2015	2016	2017	2018
Impounds - Suspended Registration	452	1,130	1,387	1,576
Moving Violations	1,743	4,592	6,233	7,746
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	10	49	32	29
Arrests:				
Possession of a Stolen Vehicle	7	34	27	23
Wanted Persons	2	17	13	10
Warrants	2	13	11	8
Other Charges	2	7	5	14

Impounds for Suspended Registration



Moving Violations Issued



ShotSpotter Gunfire Detection and Location System

In November 2017 the ShotSpotter gunfire detection system from SST went on line. This system has the ability to detect a gunshot, determine its location within 25 meters of the incident, and notify law enforcement personnel within 30-45 seconds. The system is also able to determine the amount of shots detected and the direction and speed of the subjects.

This is accomplished through multiple sensors that were installed throughout the detection area. This system is capable of locating gunfire from East and West Merrick Rd north to the village line border. This system is an expansion on an existing ShotSpotter network that was installed on the north east section of the village.

When gunfire is detected, an alert is sent to the Freeport Police Department front desk personnel, and to patrol officers on their laptop computers. All personnel are sent an alert including a map with the location of the gunfire.

In 2018 there were six (6) ShotSpotter activations that were confirmed and assisted in furthering the investigation.

ShotSpotter Flex Reviewed Alert Service



STRATEGIC OPERATIONS CENTER



The Strategic Operations Center was created to gather and evaluate intelligence from multiple sources. This intelligence may consist of data from the new license plate reader system, video surveillance systems, department and county databases, and data shared by neighboring jurisdictions. The Special Operations Center was staffed by a Crime Analyst and an Operations Technician.

Crime Analyst

The job of the crime analyst was to gather and evaluate data from various sources and report to the command staff on crime trends. This was accomplished by reviewing case reports, arrest cases, field interviews and other types of reporting. In addition, the analyst was in continual contact with the neighboring Nassau County crime analysts to discuss similar trends and suspects. The command staff would use this information to prepare and plan on how to address these trends.

The duties of the crime analyst included the following:

- Reviewing daily reports for crime trends.
- Examine Nassau County Police Department activity reports.
- Analysis of License Plate Reader (LPR) data.
- Establish trends in Quality of Life issues.
- Research all cases involving domestic incidents.
- Compile data on all cases involving overdoses to gather information on drug use.
- Preparing crime statistic reports.
- Assemble pin maps of targeted crimes.
- Attend monthly Nassau County Crime Analyst meeting.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS CENTER

Operations Technician

The job of the Operations Technician is to continually monitor the license plate reader system for vehicles that enter the Village of Freeport and triggered an alert from the system. Once an alert is received the technician notifies the police department's desk personnel to transmit the alert to all patrol officers.

In addition, the Operations Technician has the ability to monitor numerous video surveillance systems located within the village. This consists of portable and static video systems. If an incident occurs the Operations Technician has the ability to review the recorded video and attempt to isolate a description of any offenders.

LPR System Dispatch screen that alerts officers to vehicles with suspended registrations or that are wanted.

The screenshot displays the LPR System Dispatch interface. At the top, there are controls: "Alarms", a "Mute" checkbox, a checked "Center Marker" checkbox, and links for "Compact View", "Refresh", and "Home". Below this is a table with the following columns: Plate, St, Time, Reader, Camera, List, and Class. The table contains four rows of data, all for vehicles with NY State List registrations that are suspended or revoked.

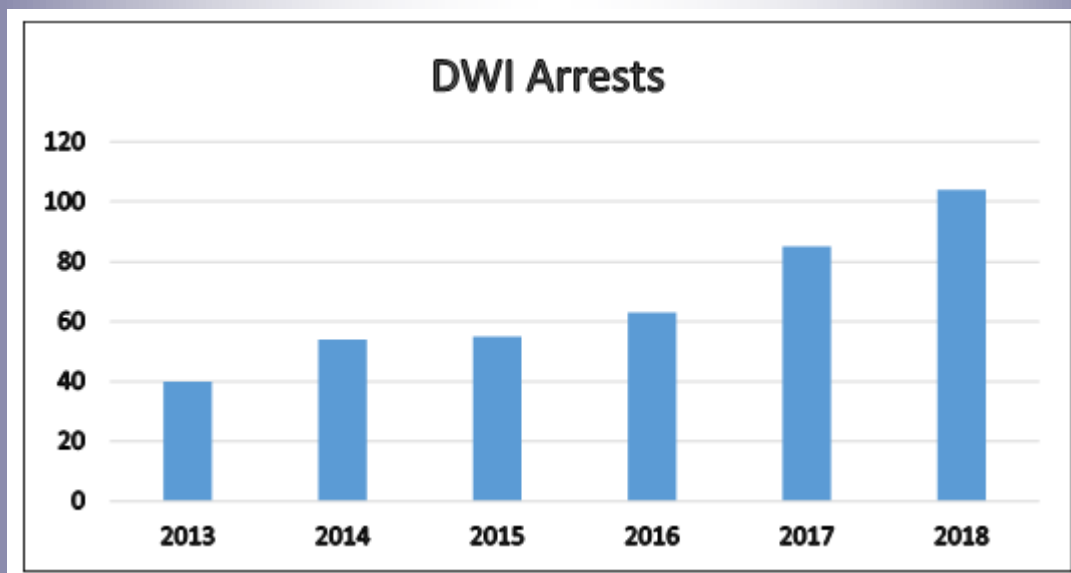
Plate	St	Time	Reader	Camera	List	Class
[Redacted]	NY	12:56 3/14/2018	E Merrick and Cleveland	Left Lane	NY State List	Suspended Or Revoked
[Redacted]	NY	12:55 3/14/2018	Atlantic & Westend	Left Lane	NY State List	Suspended Or Revoked
[Redacted]	NY	12:53 3/14/2018	Atlantic & Westend	Left Lane	NY State List	Suspended Or Revoked
[Redacted]	NY	12:44 3/14/2018	N Main & Davis	Left Lane	NY State List	Suspended Or Revoked

Below the table, there is a map showing the location of the vehicle. A red crosshair marks the location on the map. An inset window titled "Images" shows a photograph of a dark-colored SUV, likely the vehicle being tracked.

OFFICER ACTIVITY STATISTICS

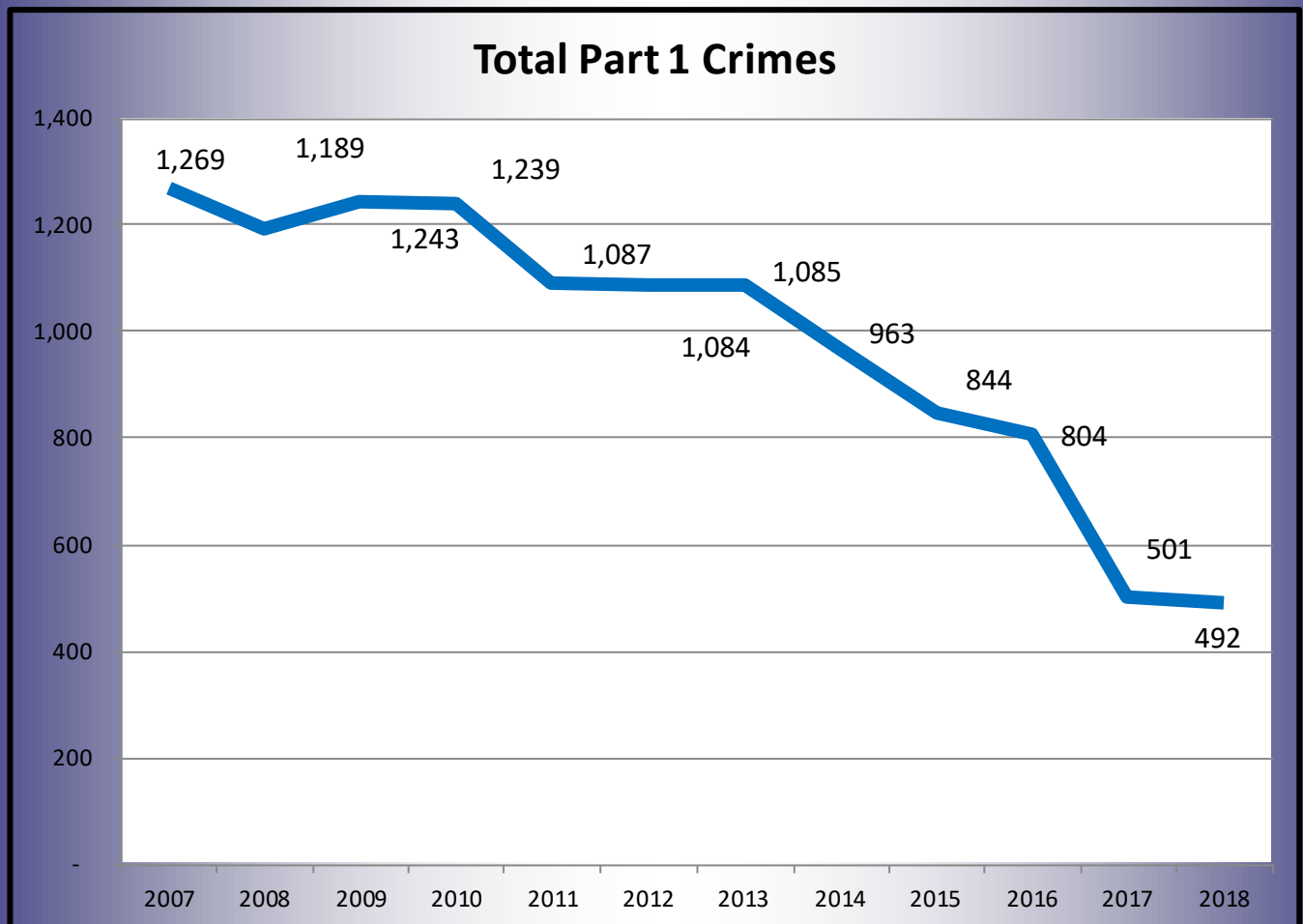
Total Activities:	2017	2018	Change	% Change
Total Calls for Service	31,344	30,803	-541	-1.73
Case Reports	4,563	4,561	-2	-0.04
Arrests	965	1,102	137	14.20
Juvenile Arrests	17	21	4	23.53
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1,856	1,749	-107	-5.77
Injured Persons	3,836	3,858	22	0.57
Alarms	2,317	2,047	-270	-11.65

Officer Activity:				
Tickets/Traffic	15,391	16,584	1,193	7.75
Tickets/Village Ordinance	2,444	1,625	-819	-33.51
Tickets/Parking	31,702	29,104	-2,598	-8.20
Vehicle Impounds	1,640	1,913	273	16.65
Field Interviews	264	300	36	13.64
Total Officer Activity:	51,441	49,526	-1,915	-3.72

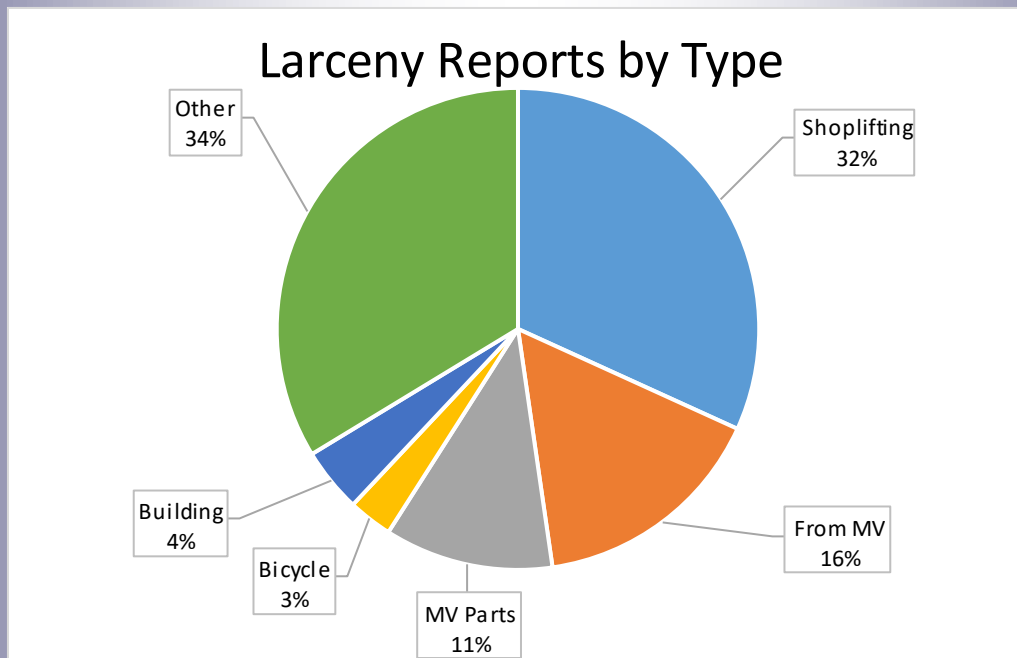


CRIME STATISTICS

Major Crime Reports	2017	2018	Change	% Change
Murder	0	0	0	0%
Rape	2	2	0	0%
Robbery	33	26	-7	-21.21%
Aggravated Assault	59	42	-17	-28.81%
Burglary	33	23	-10	-30.30%
Larceny	336	371	+35	+10.42%
Auto Theft	38	28	-10	-26.32%
Total:	501	492	-10	-1.80%
* Uniform Crime Report Statistics - Part 1				



LARCENY REPORTS—2018



Shoplifting continues to be a large percentage of the larceny reports taken by the Freeport Police Department.

Over 50% of the shoplifting reports filed in 2018 occur at only two locations in the Village of Freeport.

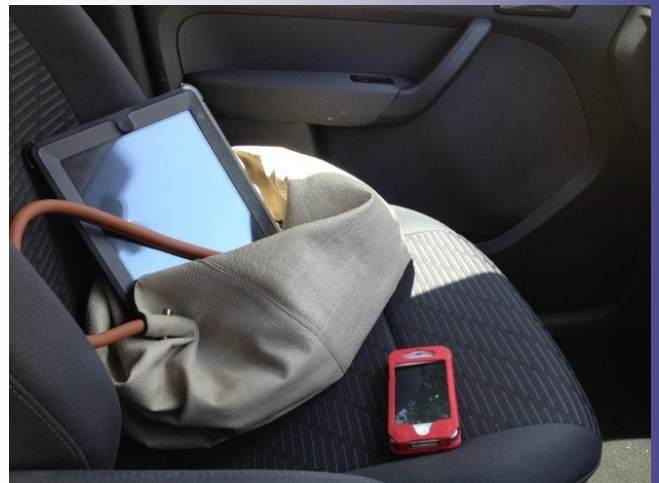


TO PREVENT THEFT—LOCK YOUR VEHICLE

In 2018 over 74 percent of the thefts from vehicles in the Village of Freeport were from vehicles that were not locked.

How can you Prevent Theft from your Vehicle:

- **Lock your vehicle.**
- Never leave your keys or key fob in the vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle where they can be seen from the outside.



CONCLUSION

No police department can prevent every crime or offense from happening. There will always be a small segment within society who will display an unpredictable demeanor or exhibit horrific violent behavior. With the mixed use of technology and crime analysis techniques leading to strategic deployment of patrols combined with police officers on the street working and communicating with the public, the greatest decrease of crime in recent history was accomplished.

The use of today's strategic initiatives, and smart precision policing including crime control strategies has led to **Historically Low Crime Rates**.

Between 1985 and 2018, there has been over a 76% drop in Part 1 Major Crimes.

Even with the lowest crime in recent history the Freeport Police Department through the continued support of Mayor Robert T. Kennedy, Deputy Mayor Jorge A. Martinez, Trustees Carmen J. Pineyro, Ron J. Ellerbe, and Christopher Squeri along with the community we serve will continue to work to improve your quality of life and endeavor to fulfill your public safety expectations.

